



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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USDA TO MEASURE OAT & BARLEY CROPS IN MAINE

Maine's 2002 growing season is well underway. Despite weather which delayed planting in the spring, timely rains and adequate sunshine have promoted rapid crop growth. Overall conditions for the 2002 oat and barley crops are currently excellent to good.

As part of the ongoing effort to monitor crops nationwide, the U.S. Department of Agriculture will soon be conducting the annual September Agricultural Survey. This survey is part of a National program to establish official statistics for small grain acreage and production. The study is administered by the New England field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

In Maine, the September Agricultural Survey will measure acreage, production, and stocks of oats and barley. Approximately 250 Maine growers will be asked for their help as part of this nationwide effort. The selected farmers will be mailed sample questions and a letter requesting their help. Interviewers will conduct the survey through personal or telephone interviews between September 1 and September 13, 2002.

"Being a nationwide project and considering the small sample size, it is important that Maine farmers participate in the September Agricultural Survey so that the state is clearly represented in this snapshot of American agriculture. Gathering this information from growers is the only way to produce reliable crop estimates that are available to everyone here and across the country," states Aubrey Davis, Director of the New England field office in Concord, New Hampshire. He also notes, "The results of the survey are needed by grower associations, lenders and law-makers to have the facts about agriculture when reviewing farm policies, an important factor in decision making." He emphasized that like all surveys conducted by the Service, individual information is kept strictly confidential and is even exempt from requests under the Freedom of Information Act. The individual reports are only used in combination to establish state and national estimates.

The national survey results will be available in the **Small Grains Summary** from Washington, D.C. on September 30, 2002 at 8:30 a.m. All reports are available on the Internet within minutes of the scheduled release time and the statistics will be reprinted in the monthly issue of the **Ag Review**. The monthly New England **Ag Review** is available on the Internet and complimentary copies will be mailed to survey participants upon request.

[The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Located in Concord, New Hampshire, it is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six states in the region. The office can be reached at 1-800-642-9567 or through E-mail at nass-nh@nass.usda.gov. All national statistics and state level newsletters are available free from E-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.]

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